GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:631
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2004
ASADHA SAKA SCHEMES FOR HANDLOOM SECTORS
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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

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(a) whether the public sector banks have drawn up some schemes for the development and to increase job opportunities in handloom sector during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the achievements made in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) & (b) : Reserve Bank of India has issued circular in September, 2003 to all Scheduled Commercial Banks for implementation of Swarojgar Credit Card (SCC) scheme. The salient features of SCC scheme are as under:

@ The Scheme provides credit i.e. working capital or block capital or both to small artisans, handloom-weavers, service sector, fishermen, self-employed persons, rickshaw owners and other micro- entrepreneurs in a flexible, hassle free and cost-effective manner.

@ The facility may also include a reasonable component for consumption needs.

@ The SCC is valid for 5 years and renewable on a yearly basis subject to satisfactory operation of the account.

@ The normal limit of loan to be fixed under the scheme is Rs. 25,000/- but in deserving cases banks may consider higher limits.

@ Beneficiaries under the scheme would automatically be covered under group insurance scheme and the premium has to be shared between the banks and the beneficiaries.

Besides, Indian Bankers` Association has issued circular to its member banks for implementation of Artisan Credit Card Scheme. Under the scheme all artisans registered with the Development Commissioners

(Handicrafts) involved in manufacturing/production process and Self Help Groups are eligible to get loans up to Rs. 2 lakhs.

(c): As per the information from NABARD, 29,000 Swarozgar Credit Cards have been issued till March, 2004 with credit amounting to Rs. 64.26 lakhs to self employed persons, including handloom weavers.